JOHN F. KENNEDY: His death at center of 'Garrison Tapes'

JFK on cable pay-per-view

By Brian Donlon
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — TV turns its attention to the assassination of John F. Kennedy again tonight, but this time, the story airs on an unusual venue — cable pay-per-view.

Viewer's Choice presents *The JFK Assassination: The Jim Garrison Tapes* (check local listings for times and prices, which vary, but are under $6). It comes on the heels of documentaries that aired on CBS, A&E and syndication.

Tapes features interviews filmed 10 years ago with Jim Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney who prosecuted, and lost, a conspiracy case.

"It is Judge Garrison telling his own story," says *Tapes* co-executive producer Lamar Card.

Garrison has been ill in recent years and has given few interviews. Card says the reason it took so long for these tapes to be seen is "people said this was a dead issue."

But the success of Oliver Stone's *JFK* — in which Kevin Costner played Garrison — changed that.

Documentaries are relatively new to pay-per-view — the only previous production, *Memories of War: Pearl Harbor Then and Now* aired on the Request Service in December — so no one is sure how many viewers will pay extra. But that's not stopping Viewer's Choice from presenting more.

"We're not news and information," says Viewer's Choice senior vice president of programming James English. "But we can be information entertainment. We're working on a Bruce Lee life story. Was he controlled by the mob? Did he really die of a heart attack?"

There are also plans for a *Tapes* sequel.

Says Card, "We've used less than half of the Garrison footage."